

TITLE: Reinstate Northern Pike Ice Spearing on WI/MI Boundary Waters**THE ISSUE:**

Spearing northern pike through the ice is permitted in Michigan, Minnesota, six other states, and the Lake Superior basin of Wisconsin (but nowhere else in Wisconsin). Years ago, WDNR deliberately chose to end their mutual rule agreement to have an ice season for spearing northern pike on the WI/MI boundary waters. Michigan reluctantly agreed, and changed their traditional rule so it would not create angler confusion and enforcement issues.

Neither state has offered any biological data to support the continued closure of these waters for spearing northern pike through the ice. In fact, Michigan would like to reinstate boundary water spearing.

Wisconsin still has a northern pike ice spearing season on Lake Superior and offers sturgeon spearing on Lake Winnebago waters, both without adverse social or biological issues. Michigan and Minnesota also have pike spearing seasons.

Dark House Spearing Associations across the upper mid-west are actively promoting the camaraderie of the sport, including traditional fish decoy carving, meetings and fund raising events. Increased new angler participation and winter tourism would be realized in Wisconsin.

We recommend reinstating the spearing season on Wisconsin / Michigan Boundary Waters citing historic interests, creating uniform boundary rules, and increasing angler participation through an alternative method, with no adverse biological concerns.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in La Crosse County on April 8th, 2013 recommends that the Department take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing the reinstatement of pike ice spearing on boundary waters.

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